A.—(a) Yes; an enquiry has been made from which it is found that there is a demand for manure leaf from reserves in certain places.

(b) The matter is under the consideration of the local officers.

Mr. A. B. Shetty:—"May I know whether the Government is aware that cultivation work, particularly in the case of people living near the coastal reserves, is suffering much on account of the withdrawal of these concessions?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. Krishnan Nayar:—"The Government are not aware of that."

Mr. A. B. Shetty:—"May I ask whether the answer to clause (a) does not admit that there is demand for manure leaves in certain places?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. Krishnan Nayar:—"Yes."

Mr. A. B. Shetty:—"May I ask whether the Government will be pleased to expedite the consideration of this matter and see what can be done?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. Krishnan Nayar:—"As far as possible they will do so."

Levy of double fees for grazing cattle in the reserve forests of Alangayam and Odugathur in the North Arcot district.

* 493 Q.—Mr. V. M. Ramaswami Mudaliyar: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether any mahazar was received by the Collector of North Arcot and the Government from the villagers of Alangayam Pedur, Badakuppam, etc., of Tiruppattur taluk, regarding the hardships in getting their cattle to graze in the forest reserve; if so, what action was taken by the Collector and the Government in this regard;

(b) whether it is a fact that the District Forest Officer of Vellore, East, has addressed the Conservator of Forests about the iniquity of compelling the said villagers to take out a double permit consequent on the administrative re-division of the ranges into Alangayam and Odugathur;

(c) when this letter was addressed and what steps have been taken to set right this hardship;

(d) whether it is a fact that the original fee for grazing per head was 3 annas and that it was subsequently raised to 8 annas;

(e) whether it is a fact that a large area that was originally unreserved forest was converted into cultivable lands by giving dharkasts; if so, what steps the Government have taken to provide sufficient lands for the convenience of the villagers and their cattle;

(f) what the number of permits issued for the grazing in the villages mentioned in the mahazar from the year 1931 to 1933 is; and

(g) why the system of levy of double permit fees which was discontinued once before has now been re-introduced?

29th January 1934]

A.—(*a*) Yes. The matter is under consideration.

(*b*) No.

(*c*) Does not arise.

(*d*) Yes.

(*e*) In 1925 there were about 740 acres of waste land in the Peddur and Narasingapuram villages of which only about 79 acres were assigned on darkhast. A large extent is thus still available in the two villages.

(*f*) A statement[a] furnishing the information is appended.

(*g*) The policy of collecting a single grazing fee for cattle grazing within a single grazing unit has not been departed from. Formerly the unit was a range but subsequently it was changed into a division. Owing to the bifurcation of the old Vellore Forest division into two divisions from 1st December 1932, the ryots of one division are now required to purchase an additional permit for taking their cattle to the forests of another division as under existing orders a permit is valid only for one division.

Mr. V. M. Ramaswami Mudaliyar:—" With reference to the answer to clause (*g*) may I know whether the Government are aware that the ryots who were grazing their cattle in a particular area before the bifurcation are now asked to pay double the amount for a permit to graze their cattle, in the same area?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. Krishnan Nayar:—" The whole question is under the consideration of the Government."

Mr. V. M. Ramaswami Mudaliyar:—" May I know whether the Government will please expedite the consideration, because this question has been pending for over eight months?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. Krishnan Nayar:—" I shall do my best."

Ports

Closure of the ports of Thopputhurai and Adirampatnam in the Tanjore district.

* 494 *Q.*—Mr. G. Ranganatha Mudaliyar: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) when and for what reasons the seaports at Thopputhurai and Adirampatnam in the Tanjore district were closed; and

(*b*) whether it is a fact that before the ports were closed, paddy from some parts of the Tanjore district was being sent to Jaffna for sale through these ports?

A.—(*a*) The ports have not been closed; they are open to both foreign and coasting trade.

(*b*) Does not arise.

[a] Printed as Appendix I on page 105 infra.